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FOR INFORMATION

STATEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF MIDWIVES

1. In an official relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Confederation of Midwifes has been working with UNICEF for many years to improve midwifery education and practice and the status of midwives. This has led to recognized achievements in many areas, notably in the realm of safe motherhood, beginning with workshops and the publication of reports from which activities within countries can be planned and developed.

2. The International Confederation of Midwives has increasingly shared many concerns with both UNICEF and WHO in recognizing areas of identified need and seeking solutions to meet these needs, which not only pertain to infants and children but also to women and families.

3. In its working relationships, the International Confederation of Midwives recognizes that improvements in infant and maternal well-being may best be achieved through close collaboration with agencies such as UNICEF. This will serve to strengthen midwifery services and will, therefore, be a means to ensure that quality midwifery care appropriate to the needs of women is readily available on a global scale, thereby also increasing the chances for improvements in the quality of life for children.

4. Since the early days of the "baby-friendly" hospital initiative, the Confederation has participated through its headquarters and has actively encouraged member associations to seek means of adopting this global strategy and adapting it to local situations.

5. The participation of midwives at all levels of policy planning and implementation, as well as in programme development and execution, together with the allocation and mobilization of resources is essential for the achievement of the goals of the safe motherhood initiative and those of the World Summit for Children.

6. The International Confederation of Midwives welcomes the opportunity to recognize achievements, but also recognizes the mount of work left to be done; to this end, the Confederation values continued cooperation and collaboration.